

Up the Missouri ...

May 23, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 9 miles past Femme Osage Creek where there was an American Settlement of 30 or 40 families. This is the celebrated Daniel Boone settlement, established in 1799, although the Captains do not mention Boone.

The Expedition visits the famous river traveler landmark and shelter, Tavern Cave; Clark adds his name to the many names that are written on the wall of the cave. Lewis falls while ascending the 300 ft. bluff above the cave, saving himself with his knife after falling 20 ft.

... a large Cave on the Lbd. Side (Called by the french the Tavern) about 120 feet wide 40 feet Deep & 20 feet high many different immages are Painted on the Rock at this place. The Inds & French pay omage. many nams are wrote on the rock ... Clark

Camped on a small island one mile below Tavern Creek.

May 24, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 10 miles. Encountered swift currents where the river ran against some projecting rocks for half a mile. In passing a sandbar further upstream, the current caught the keelboat, broke the tow rope, and turned the boat end to end three times. All hands jumped out and were finally able to secure a line to the stern and swim to shore.

...this place being the worst I ever Saw, I call it retregrade bend... Clark

Camped at an old house about a mile above where they were nearly lost.

May 25, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 10 miles to a small French village of seven houses at the mouth of Charrette Creek. They noted this as being the last white settlement.

...The people at this Village is pore, houses Small, they Sent us milk and eggs to eat... Clark



Meriwether Lewis Escapes Death

Painting by: © 1999 Michael Haynes

Planning Your Trip

- First time Missouri River boaters should become informed of the hazards and challenges associated with boating in swift current.
- When you plan your trip, note area names along your route on the map. Compare those to the public lands table to find the name of the managing agency. Then use the information on the back cover to contact the agency and secure detailed maps, information and regulations.
- Boaters should prepare a trip plan and inform another person of their travel plans including their destination and estimated time of arrival.
- Fuel is scarce on the lower Missouri River. Locate fuel sources before you begin your trip and plan accordingly. Upstream boaters should expect a 15-80 percent reduction in speed and corresponding increase in fuel consumption due to the 3-7 mph current of the river.
- Inspect your boat to make sure you have all of the required boat safety equipment.
- Take a boat safety course and get a free boat safety check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

May 26, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 18 miles. Set out under sail at 7 a.m. after a hard rain and wind. Camped on an island near the southern extreme of Loutre Island. Lewis and Clark issue orders for the organization of their men. They form three messes under Sgts. Floyd, Ordway, and Pryor totaling 26 men. This becomes the core group in the keelboat destined to go to the Pacific and back. The remainder of the group (12 men) form into two other messes. These become the crews of the two pirogues who were to return with the keelboat after the entire expedition winters in the Mandan Villages. The duties of the three sergeants are also spelled out in detail.

...Sergt. John Ordway will continue to issue the provisions and make the detales for guard or other duty.- The day after tomorrow lyed corn and grece will be issued to the party, the next day Poark and flour, and the day following indian meal and poark; and in conformity to that ratiene provisions will continue to be issued to the party untill further orders... Lewis

Missouri River Access & Public Lands

River Access (Boat Ramps)	Toilets	Camping	River Mile	Owner	Stream
Colter's Landing	Y	N	77.6	MDC	Boeuf Creek
Hermann Riverfront Park	Y	N	97.7	Hermann/MDC	Missouri River
New Haven	Y	N	81.4	New Haven/MDC	Missouri River
Olympic Marine (Fuel)	Y	N	81.5	Pvt Owned Public Use	Missouri River
Washington City	Y	N	68.3	Washington/MDC	Missouri River

Public Lands and Parks	Toilets	Camping	Ownership/ Management
Berger Bend, Mitigation Site	N	N	USACE
Busch Memorial, Conservation Area	Y	N	MDC
Caldwell Memorial, Wildlife Area	N	N	MDC
Daniel Boone, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Engelmann Woods, Natural Area	N	N	MDC
Katy Trail State Park, Biking/Hiking Trail	Y	N	MDNR
Little Lost Creek, Conservation Area	N	Y	MDC
Port Hudson Lake, Conservation Area	Y	N	MDC
Reifsnider State Forest	N	Y	MDC
Weldon Spring, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC

The Return...

September 20, 1806: The Expedition made 68 miles but three of the party were unable to row because of their sore eyes. The Expedition finally arrived at the village of Charette and fired their guns. They were given beef, flour, and pork and also purchased two gallons of whiskey from a citizen.



Historic reenactor camping on the Missouri River

Photo by: Pat Whalen

